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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Thirty-ninth session
New York, 15 March-4 April 1995
Agenda item 3 (e)

PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN: ACTION FOR EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Draft Platform for Action

Addendum

Chapter I

MISSION STATEMENT

1. The Platform for Action is an agenda for women's empowerment. It aims to accelerate the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the removal of all obstacles to women's active participation in all spheres of public and private life through a full and equal share in economic, social, cultural and political decision-making. This means also establishing the principle of shared power and responsibility between women and men at home, in the workplace, and in the wider national and international communities. Equality between women and men is a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice and is also a necessary and fundamental prerequisite for equality, development and peace. A transformed partnership based on equality between women and men is a condition for people-centred sustainable development. A sustained and long-term commitment is essential so that women and men can work together for themselves, for their children and for society to meet the challenges of the next century.

2. [The Platform reaffirms the fundamental principle set forth in the Vienna Declaration adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights that the human rights of women and of the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights.] As an agenda for action, the Platform seeks to promote and protect [the full enjoyment of all universal] all

human rights and the fundamental freedoms of all women throughout their life cycle.

3. The Platform emphasizes that women share common concerns that can only be addressed by working together and in partnership with men towards the common goal of gender* equality around the world. It respects and values the full diversity of women's situations and conditions, and recognizes that some women face particular barriers to their empowerment.

4. The Platform for Action requires immediate and concerted action by all to create a peaceful, just, humane and [equitable] world based on the [universal human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the] principle of equality [and equity] for all people of all ages and from all walks of life.

5. The success of the Platform for Action will require a strong commitment on the part of Governments, international organizations and institutions at all levels as well as [adequate] [new and additional] resources for the implementation of the agreements made; a commitment to the equal rights, equal responsibilities and opportunities, and equal participation of women and men in all national, regional and international bodies and policy-making processes; and the establishment or strengthening of mechanisms at all levels for accountability to the world's women.

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* The term "gender" is asterisked pending the issuance of a definition of the term requested by a delegation.

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Chapter II

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK

6. The Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace is taking place as the world stands poised on the threshold of a new millennium.

7. This Platform for Action upholds the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and builds upon the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, as well as relevant resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The formulation of the Platform for Action is aimed at establishing a basic group of priority actions that should be carried out in the next five years.

8. The Platform for Action recognizes the importance of the agreements reached at the World Summit for Children, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, and the World Summit for Social Development, which had set out specific approaches and commitments to fostering sustainable development and international cooperation and to strengthening the role of the United Nations to that end. Similarly, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the International Conference on Nutrition, the International Conference on Primary Health Care and

the World Conference on Education for All have all addressed the various facets of development and [universally recognized] human rights, within their specific perspectives, paying significant attention to the role of women and girls. In addition, the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, the International Year of the Family, the International Year for Tolerance, the Geneva Declaration for Rural Women, and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women have also emphasized the issues of women's empowerment and equality.

9. [The Platform for Action is drawn up in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. It is recognized that the formulation and implementation of strategies, policies, and programmes and actions in all areas of concern are the responsibility of each country, with full respect for the various [religious ethical values, cultural background and philosophical convictions of all its people] and in conformity with all [universal] human rights and fundamental freedoms.]

10. Since the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Nairobi in 1985, and the adoption of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, the world has experienced profound political, economic, social and cultural changes, which have had both positive and negative effects on women.

11. [The World Conference on Human Rights recognized that the human rights of women and the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. [The universal nature of these human rights and freedoms is beyond question.] The full and equal participation of women in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life at the national, regional and international levels, and the eradication of all forms of discrimination on the grounds of sex are priority objectives of the international community.]

12. [The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirmed the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments related to human rights and international law. The universal nature of these rights and freedoms is beyond question.]

13. The end of the cold war has resulted in international changes and diminished competition between the super-Powers. The threat of a global armed conflict has diminished, while international relations have improved and prospects for peace among nations have increased. Although the threat of global conflict has been reduced, wars of aggression, armed conflicts, [alien domination and foreign occupation], civil wars, terrorism and [extremist violence] continue to plague many parts of the world. Grave violations of human rights of women occur, particularly in times of armed conflict, and include murder, torture, systematic rape, [forced pregnancy] and forced] abortion, in particular under policies of "ethnic cleansing".

14. The maintenance of peace and security at the global, regional and local levels, together with the prevention of policies of aggression and ethnic

cleansing and the resolution of armed conflict, is crucial for the protection of the [universal] human rights of women and girl children, as well as for the elimination of all forms of violence against them and of their use as a weapon of war.

15. [Consequently, a huge portion of global expenditures has been devoted to the production, trafficking and trade of arms, thus substantially reducing resources for social development. Moreover, debt burden has forced many developing countries to undertake structural adjustment policies that are detrimental to their social development. The number of people living in poverty has therefore increased disproportionately in most developing countries, particularly the heavily indebted countries, during the last decade.]

16. [In this context, we should also emphasize the social dimension of development. Accelerated economic growth, although necessary for social development, does not by itself improve the quality of life of the population: indeed, it can aggravate social inequality and marginalization. Hence, it is indispensable to search for new alternatives based on a holistic approach on all aspects of development: growth, equity, sustainable development, solidarity, participation, peace and respect for human rights.]

17. A world-wide movement towards democratization has opened up the political process in many nations, but the popular participation of women in key decision-making as full and equal partners, particularly in politics, is not yet achieved. [South Africa's policy of institutionalized racism - apartheid - has been dismantled and a peaceful and democratic transfer of power has occurred.] [Similarly, in Central and Eastern Europe the transition to parliamentary democracy has been rapid and relatively peaceful. In some countries from the same region, this process has been followed by armed conflict that has resulted in grave violations of human rights.]

18. A widespread economic recession as well as political instability in some regions, have been responsible for setting back development goals in many countries. This has led to an expansion of unspeakable poverty. Of the more than 1 billion people living in abject poverty, women are an overwhelming majority. The rapid process of change and adjustment in all sectors, has also led to increased unemployment and underemployment, with particular impact on women. In many cases, structural adjustment programmes have not been designed so as to minimize their negative effects on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups or on women, nor have they been designed to ensure positive effects on those groups by preventing their marginalization in economic and social activities. The Final Act of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations underscored the increasing interdependence of national economies, as well as the importance of trade liberalization and access to open dynamic markets. The period has also been characterized by heavy military spending in some regions. Despite increases by some countries, overall official development assistance (ODA) has recently declined.

19. Absolute poverty and the feminization of poverty, unemployment, the increasing fragility of the environment, continued violence against women and the widespread exclusion of half of humanity from institutions of power and governance underscore the need for a continued search for development, peace,

security and solutions seeking to ensure a people-centred sustainable development. The participation and leadership of the half of humanity that is female is essential to the success of that search. Therefore, only [a just and equitable social and economic international order and] a radical transformation of the relationship between women and men to one of full and equal partnership will enable the world to meet the challenges of the next century.

20. Recent international economic developments have had in many cases a disproportionate impact on women and children, the majority of whom live in developing countries. For those States that have carried a large burden of foreign debt, structural adjustment programmes and measures, though beneficial in the long term, have led to a reduction in social expenditures, thereby adversely affecting women, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries. This is exacerbated when responsibilities for basic social services have shifted from Governments to women.

21. Economic recession in many developed and developing countries, as well as ongoing restructuring in countries with economies in transition, have had a disproportionately negative impact on women's employment. Women often have no choice but to take employment that lacks long-term job security or involves dangerous working conditions, to work in unprotected home-based production or to go unemployed. Many women enter the labour market in under-remunerated and undervalued jobs seeking to improve their household income; others have decided to migrate for the same purpose. Without any reduction in their other responsibilities, this has increased the total burden of work for women.

22. Macro and microeconomic policies and programmes, including structural adjustment, have not always been designed to take account of their impact on women and girl children, especially for those living in poverty. Poverty has increased in both absolute and relative terms, and the number of women living in poverty has increased in most regions. There are many urban women living in poverty; however, the plight of women living in rural and remote areas deserves special attention given the stagnation of development in such areas. In developing countries, even those in which national indicators have shown improvement, the majority of rural women continue to live in conditions of economic underdevelopment and social marginalization.

23. Women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace. Growing numbers of women have achieved economic independence through gainful employment.

24. One fourth of all households world wide are headed by women and many other households are dependent on female income even where men are present. Female-maintained households are very often among the poorest due to, inter alia, wage discrimination, occupational segregation patterns in the labour market and other gender-based barriers. Family disintegration, population movements between urban and rural areas within countries, international migration, war and internal displacements are factors contributing to the rise of female-headed households.

25. Recognizing that the achievement and maintenance of peace and security are a precondition for economic and social progress, women are increasingly establishing themselves as central actors in a variety of capacities in the movement of humanity for peace. Their full participation in decision-making, conflict prevention and resolution, and all other peace initiatives is essential to the realization of lasting peace.

26. The Fourth World Conference on Women should accelerate the process that formally began in 1975, which was proclaimed International Women's Year by the United Nations General Assembly. The year was a turning-point in putting women's issues on the agenda. The United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985) was a world-wide effort to examine the status and rights of women and to bring women into decision-making at all levels. In 1979, the General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which entered into force in 1981 and set an international standard for what was meant by equality between women and men. In 1985, the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace adopted the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, to be implemented by the year 2000. There has been important progress in achieving equality between women and men. Many Governments have enacted legislation to promote equality between women and men and have established national machineries to ensure the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in all spheres of society. International agencies have focused greater attention on women's status and roles.

27. The growing strength of the non-governmental sector, particularly women's organizations, [and others who support feminist ideals] has become a driving force for change. Non-governmental organizations have played an important advocacy role in advancing legislation or mechanisms to ensure the promotion of women. They have also become catalysts for new approaches to development. Many Governments have increasingly recognized the important role that non-governmental organizations play and the importance of working with them for progress. [Yet, in some countries, Governments continue to restrict the ability of non-governmental organizations to operate freely.] Women, through non-governmental organizations, have participated in and strongly influenced community, national, regional and global forums and international debates.

28. Since 1975, knowledge of the status of both women and men respectively has increased and is contributing to further actions aimed at promoting equality between women and men. In several countries, there have been important changes in the relationships between women and men, especially where there have been major advances in education for women and significant increases in their participation in the paid labour force. The boundaries of the gender division of labour between productive and reproductive roles are gradually being crossed as women have started to enter formerly male-dominated areas of work and men have started to accept greater responsibilities for domestic tasks, including child care. However, changes in women's roles have been greater and much more rapid than changes in men's roles. In many countries, the differences between women's and men's achievements and activities are still not recognized as the consequences of socially constructed gender roles rather than immutable biological differences.

29. Moreover, 10 years after the Nairobi Conference equality between women and men has still not been achieved. On average, women represent a mere 10 per cent of all elected legislators world wide and in most national and international administrative structures, both public and private, they remain underrepresented. The United Nations is no exception. Fifty years after its creation, the United Nations is continuing to deny itself the benefits of women's leadership by their underrepresentation at decision-making levels within the Secretariat and the specialized agencies.

30. [Women play a critical role in the family, the basic unit of society. States Parties who have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women have done so bearing in mind the great contribution of women to the welfare of the family and to the development of society, which is still not fully recognized. They have also borne in mind the social significance of maternity and the role of both parents in the family and in the upbringing of children, and are aware that the role of women in procreation should not be a basis for discrimination but that the upbringing of children requires a sharing of responsibility between women and men and society as a whole.]

31. [Religion plays a central role in the lives of millions of women, in the way they live and the aspirations they have for the future. While any form of extremism, religious or secular, has a negative impact on women in the form of violence and discrimination, a moral and ethical climate that prevents all forms of corruption in society and exploitation of women is needed if equality, development and peace are to be realized. The serious issues with which the world is confronted today require a more effective response by societies to not only the material but also the spiritual needs of individuals, including women.]

32. While the rate of growth is on the decline, the growth of the world population is at an all-time high in absolute numbers, with current increments approaching 90 million persons annually. Two other major demographic trends have had profound repercussions on the dependency ratio within families. In many developing countries, 45 to 50 per cent of the population is less than 25 years old, while in industrialized nations both the number and proportion of elderly people are increasing. According to United Nations estimates, by the year 2025 70 per cent of the population over 60 years of age will be living in developing countries, of whom more than half will be women. Care of children, the sick and the elderly is a responsibility that due to the lack of equality and the unbalanced distribution of remunerated and unremunerated work between women and men, falls disproportionately on women.

33. Many women face particular barriers because of various diverse factors in addition to their gender. Often these diverse factors isolate or marginalize such women and result, inter alia, in a denial of their [universal] human rights, and their lack of access or a denial of their access to education and vocational training, employment, housing and economic self-sufficiency, as well as their exclusion from decision-making processes. Such women are often denied the opportunity to contribute to their communities as part of the mainstream.

34. The past decade has also witnessed a growing recognition of the distinct interests and concerns of indigenous women, whose identity, cultural traditions

and forms of social organization enhance and strengthen the communities in which they live. Indigenous women often face barriers both as women and as members of indigenous communities.

35. In the past 20 years, the world has seen an explosion in the field of communications. With advances in computer technology and satellite and cable television, global access to information continues to increase and expand, creating new opportunities for the participation of women in communications and the mass media and for the dissemination of information about women. On the other hand, the global communication networks have been used to proliferate stereotyped and demeaning images of women for narrow commercial and consumerist purposes. Until women participate equally in both the technical and decision-making areas of communications and media, including the arts, they will continue to be misrepresented and awareness of the reality of women's lives will continue to be lacking. [The commitment to promoting human values and dignity on the part of the media is seriously lacking]

36. Continuing environmental degradation that affects all human lives often has a more direct impact on women. Women's health and their livelihood are threatened by pollution and toxic wastes, large-scale deforestation, desertification, drought, and depletion of the soil and of coastal and marine resources, with a rising incidence of environmentally related health problems and even death reported among women and girls. Those most affected are rural and indigenous women, whose livelihood and daily subsistence depends directly on sustainable ecosystems.

37. [The major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, particularly in industrialized countries, which is a matter of grave concern, aggravating poverty and imbalances.] Therefore, equitable social development that recognizes empowering people living in poverty, particularly women, to utilize environmental resources sustainably is a necessary foundation for sustainable development. Women as citizens can help change consumption patterns in their multiple role as consumers, householders, workers and voters.

38. Global trends have brought profound changes in family survival strategies and structure[s]. Rural to urban migration has increased substantially in all regions. The global urban population is projected to reach 57 per cent of the total population by the year 2000. An estimated 125 million people are migrants, refugees and displaced persons, half of whom live in developing countries. These massive movements of people have profound consequences for family structure[s] and well-being and have unequal consequences for women and men, including in many cases the sexual exploitation of women.

39. According to World Health Organization (WHO) estimates, by the beginning of 1995 the number of cumulative cases of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) was 4.5 million. An estimated 19.5 million men, women and children have been infected with human immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV) since it was first diagnosed and it is projected that another 20 million will be infected by the end of the decade. Among new cases, women are twice as likely to be infected than men. In the early stage of the AIDS pandemic, women were not infected in large numbers; however, there are now about 8 million women infected. Young women and

adolescents are particularly vulnerable. It is estimated that by the year 2000 more than 13 million women will be infected and 4 million women will have died from AIDS-related conditions. In addition, about 250 million new cases of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are estimated to occur every year. The rate of STD/HIV/AIDS transmission is increasing at an alarming rate among women and girls, especially in developing countries.

40. Since 1975, significant knowledge and information has been generated about the status of women and the conditions under which they live. Throughout their entire life cycle, women's daily existence and long-term aspirations are restricted by discriminatory attitudes, unjust social and economic structures, and a lack of resources in most countries that prevent their full and equal participation. In a number of countries, the practice of pre-natal sex selection, higher rates of mortality among very young girls and lower rates of school enrolment for girls as compared with boys suggest that "son preference" is curtailing the access of girl children to food, education and health care [and even life itself]. [Discrimination against women begins even before birth and must therefore be addressed from birth/then onwards.]

41. [Girls of today are women of tomorrow. If tomorrow's women are to become equal partners with men in social change and development, now is the time to accord the girl child her rightful share of human dignity and opportunity. Yet there exists world-wide discrimination and violence against girls that begin even before they are born and continue unabated throughout their lives. They have less access to nutrition, health and education. They enjoy fewer rights and opportunities and less benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys. They are subjected to sexual and economic exploitation, violence and harmful practices, such as feticide, infanticide, female genital mutilation and early/child marriage. Their daily existence and long-term aspirations are restricted by attitudes, structures and a lack of resources that prevent their full and equal participation. For a girl to develop her full potential, she should be nurtured in an enabling environment of dignity and opportunity where her specific needs for survival, protection and development are met and her equal rights safeguarded.]

42. More than half the world's population is under the age of 25 and most of the world's youth - more than 80 per cent - live in developing countries. Policy makers must recognize the implications of these demographics. Special measures must be taken to ensure that young women have the life skills necessary for active and effective participation in all levels of social, cultural, political and economic leadership. It will be critical for the international community to demonstrate a new commitment to the future - a commitment to inspiring a new generation of women and men to work together for a more just society. This new generation of leaders must accept and promote a world in which every child is free from injustice, oppression and inequality, and in which she is free to develop to her own potential. The principle of equality [and equity] of women and men must therefore be integral to the socialization process.

Annex

The following paragraph was for inclusion in section 5:

[The international conferences, summits and processes described above are evidence that there are significant challenges facing the world that the world is prepared to meet. Recognition of the role of women in meeting these challenges is a prerequisite for achieving equality and for the shared responsibility of women and men. International consensus exists on the role of women in development and the international community must commit itself to action to implement the strategies outlined in the Platform for Action. However, implementation also requires commitments from Governments. Thus, as the Fourth World Conference on Women is a Conference of commitment and action, States have responded to the challenge by separately stating national commitments for national action within the context of the Platform for Action, which will result in practical outcomes for girls and women of all ages. The specific commitments of each nation appear in an annex to this Platform for Action.

The following paragraph was proposed for inclusion in section 4:

Short-term measures and the reformulation of long-term social policies and investments are required for a more [equitable] [equal] sharing of family responsibilities between women and men. [Women have different requirements at various stages of their life cycle, which need to be addressed by policy planning and programme and project implementation based on gender-sensitive analyses.

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Chapter III

Addendum

III. CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN

34. The advancement of women and the achievement of [respect for their innate dignity and the fundamental] equality between women and men are [a matter of human rights and a condition for] [delete: not simply an issue of] social justice and should not be seen in isolation as a women's issue. They are the only way to build a sustainable, just and developed society. Empowerment of women and equality [and equity] between women and men are prerequisites for achieving political, social, economic, cultural and environmental security among all peoples.

35. Most of the goals set out in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women have not been achieved. Barriers to women's empowerment remain, despite the efforts of Governments, as well as non-governmental organizations and women and men everywhere. [Vast political, economic and ecological crises, systemic or de facto discrimination, armed conflict [colonial and other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation] [failure to protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women, including the right to development] and ingrained prejudicial attitudes towards women and girls are but a few of the impediments encountered since the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, in 1985.]

36. A review of progress since the Nairobi Conference highlights special concerns - areas of particular urgency that stand out as priorities for action. All actors should focus action and resources on the strategic objectives relating to the critical areas of concern which are, necessarily, interrelated, interdependent and of high priority. There is a need for these actors to develop and implement mechanisms of accountability for all the areas of concern.

37. To this end, Governments, the international community and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, are called upon to take strategic action in the following critical areas of concern [with full respect for religious and ethical values, cultural backgrounds and philosophical convictions in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms]:

[- The persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women;

- Unequal access to or inadequate educational and training opportunities of good quality at all levels;

- Inequalities in health care and related services;

- All forms of violence against women [and the girl child];

- Effects of persecution and armed or other kinds of conflict on women [in particular those living under foreign occupation or alien domination];

- Inequality in women's access to and participation in the definition of economic structures and policies and the productive process itself;

- Inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels;

- Insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women;

- Promotion and protection of all [universal] human rights of women;

- Women and the media;

- Women and the environment;

- [New text yet to be reached on the girl child]].

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Chapter IV

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

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38. In each area of critical concern, the problem is diagnosed and strategic objectives are proposed with concrete actions to be taken by various actors in order to achieve those objectives. The strategic objectives are derived from the critical areas of concern, and specific actions to be taken to achieve them cut across boundaries of equality, development and peace - the goals of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women - and reflect their interdependence. The objectives and actions are interlinked, of high priority and mutually reinforcing. [The programme is intended to improve the condition of all women, irrespective of age, and while recognizing the differences among women, it seeks to pay special attention to the groups of women that are at highest risk, as well as to rural, indigenous, disabled and displaced women.]

39. [The actions are directed to improving the status and situation of all women and therefore recognize that many women face particular barriers because of such factors as their race, age, language, ethnicity, culture, religion [sexual orientation,] or disability, or because they are indigenous people. Many women face barriers related to their family status, particularly as single

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parents, to their socio-economic status, including their living conditions in rural or isolated areas and in impoverished areas in rural and urban environments, or to their status as immigrants. Particular barriers also exist for refugee, migrant and displaced women, as well as for those who are affected by environmental disasters, serious and infectious diseases, addiction and various forms of violence against women.]

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Chapter IV

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

A. The persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women

39. More than 1 billion people in the world today live under unacceptable conditions of poverty, mostly in the developing countries, the great majority of whom are women. The uncertain global economic climate has been accompanied by economic restructuring, persistent external debt problems and structural adjustment programmes. All types of conflict, displacement of people and environmental degradation have also further undermined the capacity of Governments to meet the basic needs of their populations. The global transformations of the world economy are profoundly changing the parameters of social development in all countries. One significant trend has been the increased poverty of women, the extent of which varies from region to region. The gender disparities in economic power-sharing are also an important contributing factor to the poverty of women. [Full text on unemployment and underemployment to come.] Migration and consequent changes in family structures have placed additional burdens on women, especially those who provide for several dependants. Macroeconomic policies need rethinking and reformulation to address these trends. These policies focus almost exclusively on the formal sector. They also tend to impede the initiatives of women and fail to consider the differential impact on women and men. The application of gender analysis to a wide range of policies and programmes is therefore critical to poverty

reduction strategies. In order to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, women and men must participate fully and equally in the formulation of macroeconomic and social policies and strategies for the eradication of poverty. The eradication of poverty cannot be accomplished through anti-poverty programmes alone but will require democratic participation and changes in economic structures in order to ensure access for all women to resources, opportunities and public services. Poverty is a complex multidimensional problem with origins in both the national and international domains. Poverty has various manifestations, including lack of income and productive resources sufficient to ensure a sustainable livelihood; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic services; increasing morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments; and social discrimination and exclusion. It is also characterized by lack of participation in decision-making and in civil, social and cultural life. It occurs in all countries - as mass poverty in many developing countries and as pockets of poverty amidst wealth in developed countries. Poverty may be caused by an economic recession that results in a loss of livelihood or by disaster or conflict. There is also the poverty of low-wage workers and the utter destitution of people who fall outside family support systems, social institutions and safety nets.

40. In the past decade the number of women living in poverty has increased disproportionately to the number of men, particularly in the developing countries. Feminization of poverty has also recently become a significant problem in the countries with economies in transition as a short-term consequence of the process of political, economic and social transformation. In addition to economic factors, the rigidity of socially ascribed gender roles and women's limited access to power, education, training and productive resources [as well as emerging cultural and social factors that lead to instability and the deterioration of families] are also responsible. The failure to adequately mainstream a gender perspective in all economic analysis and planning and to address the structural causes of poverty is also a contributing factor.

41. Women contribute to the economy and to combating poverty through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace. The empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty.

42. While poverty affects households as a whole, because of the gender division of labour and responsibilities for household welfare, women bear a disproportionate burden, attempting to manage household consumption and production under conditions of increasing scarcity. Poverty is particularly acute for women living in rural households.

43. Women's poverty is directly related to the absence of economic opportunities and autonomy, lack of access to economic resources, including credit, land ownership and inheritance, and education and support services, and minimal participation in the decision-making process. Poverty can also force women into situations in which they are vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

43 bis. In too many countries, social welfare systems do not take sufficient account of the specific conditions of women living in poverty, and there is a

tendency to scale back the services provided by such systems. The risk of falling into poverty is greater for women than for men, particularly in old age, where social security systems are based on the principle of continuous remunerated employment. In some cases, women do not fulfil this requirement because of interruptions in their work, due to the unbalanced distribution of remunerated and unremunerated work. Moreover, older women also face greater obstacles to labour-market re-entry.

43 ter. In many developed countries, where the level of general education and professional training of women and men are similar and where systems of protection against discrimination are available, in some sectors the economic transformations of the past decade have strongly increased either the unemployment of women or the precarious nature of their employment. The proportion of women among the poor has consequently increased. In countries with a high level of school enrolment of girls, those who leave the educational system the earliest, without any qualification, are among the most vulnerable in the labour market.

In countries with economies in transition and in other countries undergoing fundamental political, economic and social transformations, these transformations have often led to a reduction in women's income or to women being deprived of income, whether from work or from social protection.

44. Particularly in developing countries, the productive capacity of women should be increased through access to capital, resources, credit, land, technology, information, technical assistance and training so as to raise their income and improve nutrition, education and health care and status within the household. The release of women's productive potential is pivotal to breaking the cycle of poverty so that women can share fully in the benefits of development and in the products of their own labour.

45. [Sustained economic growth and sustainable development can only be attained through improving the economic, social, political, legal and cultural status of women.] The challenge is to overcome poverty and to achieve the economic and political empowerment of women.

Strategic objective A.1. Review, adopt and maintain macroeconomic policies and development strategies that address the needs and efforts of women to overcome poverty within the framework of sustainable development

Actions to be taken

46. By Governments:

(a) Review and modify with full and equal participation of women macroeconomic and social policies with the view to achieving the objectives of the Platform for Action;

(a) bis. Analyse from a gender perspective, policies and programmes, including those related to macroeconomic stability, structural adjustment programmes, external debt problems, taxation,

investments, employment, markets and all relevant sectors of the economy, with respect to their impact on poverty, on inequality and particularly on women; assess their impact on family well-being and conditions, and adjust them, as appropriate, to promote more equitable distribution of productive assets, wealth, opportunities, income and services;

(a) ter. Pursue and implement sound and stable macroeconomic and sectoral policies, designed with the full and equal participation of women, that encourage broad-based sustained economic growth [in the context of people-centred sustainable development] [sustainable development centred on human beings], address the structural causes of poverty and are geared towards eradicating poverty and reducing gender-based inequality;

(b) Restructure and target the allocation of public expenditures to promote women's economic opportunities and equal and more equitable access to productive resources and to address the basic social, educational and health needs of women, particularly those living in poverty;

(c) Develop agricultural and fishing sectors, where and as necessary, in order to ensure, as appropriate, national and household food security and food self-sufficiency, by allocating the necessary financial, technical and human resources;

(c) bis. Develop policies and programmes to promote equitable distribution of food within the household;

(d) Provide adequate safety nets and strengthen State-based and community-based support systems, as an integral part of social policy, to enable women living in poverty to withstand adverse economic environments and preserve their livelihood, assets and revenues in times of crisis;

(e) Generate economic policies that have a positive impact on the employment and income of women workers both in the formal and informal sectors and adopt specific measures to address women's unemployment, in particular their long-term unemployment;

(f) Formulate and implement, when necessary, specific economic, social, agricultural and related policies in support of female-headed households;

(h) Develop and implement anti-poverty programmes, including employment schemes, that improve the access to food for women living in poverty, including through the use of appropriate pricing and distribution mechanisms;

(i) [Introduce measures for the empowerment of women migrants and internally displaced women through the easing of stringent and restrictive migration policies, recognition of qualifications and

skills of documented immigrants and their full integration into the labour force, and undertaking other measures necessary for the full realization of the human rights of internally displaced persons];

(i) bis. Introduce measures to integrate or reintegrate women living in poverty and socially marginalized women into productive employment and the economic mainstream and ensure full access for internally displaced women to economic opportunities, including the recognition of the qualifications and skills of immigrant and refugee women;

(j) Enable women to obtain affordable housing and access to land, including by removing all obstacles to access, with special emphasis on meeting the needs of women, especially those living in poverty and female heads of household;

(k) [In the event a modification to paragraph 38 or an earlier section indicating groups of special concern is approved, the whole paragraph will be deleted: Develop special programmes that reflect the specific needs of children, particularly girls, young women, older women and women with disabilities who are least able to gain access to social services and productive resources, as applicable;]

new (m) Formulate and implement policies and programmes that enhance the access of women agricultural and fisheries producers (including subsistence farmers and producers, especially in rural areas) to financial, technical, extension and marketing services; provide access and control of land, appropriate infrastructure and technology in order to increase women's incomes and promote household food security, especially in rural areas and, where appropriate, encourage the development of producer-owned, market-based cooperatives;

new (m) bis. Create social security systems wherever they do not exist, or review them with a view to placing individual women and men on an equal footing, at every stage of their lives;

new (m) ter. Ensure access to free or low-cost legal services, including legal literacy especially designed to reach women living in poverty;

[new (o) Develop policies and programmes for indigenous women with their full participation and respect of their cultural diversity, so that they have opportunities and possibilities of choice in the development processes in order to eradicate the poverty that affects them.]

47. By multilateral financial and development institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and regional development institutions, and through bilateral development cooperation:

(a) [[Increase resources allocated] [Allocate resources as appropriate] to the elimination of [absolute] poverty, and target women [and families] in poverty] [Support the developing countries through the allocation of new and additional resources for the eradication of poverty and target women living in poverty]];

(b) Strengthen analytical capacity in order to more systematically strengthen gender perspectives and integrate them into the design and implementation of lending programmes, including structural adjustment and economic recovery programmes;

(c) [Cancel or substantially reduce the debt burden, or convert debt services of developing countries, in particular the highly indebted low-income countries, in order to help them to finance programmes and projects targeted at development, including the advancement of women, and to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development without falling into a new debt crisis];

(c) bis. Ensure that structural adjustment programmes are so designed as to minimize their negative effects on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and communities, while ensuring their positive effects on such groups and communities by preventing their marginalization in economic and social activities and devising measures to ensure that they gain access to and control over economic resources and economic and social activities; actions should be taken to reduce inequality and economic disparity;

(d) Review the impact of structural adjustment programmes on social development by means of gender-sensitive social impact assessments and other relevant methods, in order to develop policies to reduce their negative effects and improve their positive impact, ensuring that women do not bear a disproportionate burden of transition costs; complement adjustment lending with enhanced, targeted social development lending;

(e) [Create an enabling environment that allows women to build and maintain sustainable livelihoods.]

[47 bis. By national and international non-governmental organizations and women's groups:

(a) All parties involved in the development process, including academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and grass-roots and women's groups, should mobilize to improve the effectiveness of anti-poverty programmes directed towards the poorest and most disadvantaged groups of women, such as rural and indigenous women, female heads of households, young women and older women, refugees and migrant women and women with disabilities. However, Governments should not abrogate their responsibility for providing for social well-being by shifting social responsibility to non-governmental organizations and women;

(b) Non-governmental organizations and women's organizations should organize pressure groups and establish monitoring mechanisms and other relevant activities to ensure implementation of the recommendations on poverty outlined in the Platform for Action. These activities should aim at ensuring accountability and transparency from the State and private sectors;

(c) Women's organizations should include in their activities women with diverse needs by age, ethnicity and culture. They should recognize that youth organizations are increasingly becoming effective partners in development programmes;

(d) Women's organizations and other non-governmental organizations in cooperation with the Government and private sectors should develop a comprehensive national strategy for improving health, education and social services so that girls and women of all ages living in poverty have full access to such services. Funding should be sought to secure access to services with a gender perspective and to extend those services in order to reach the rural and remote areas that are not covered by government institutions;

(e) Women's organizations and non-governmental organizations, in cooperation with Governments, employers, other social partners and relevant parties, should develop education and training and retraining policies to ensure that women can acquire a wide range of skills to meet new demands. Policies are needed to ensure basic education, to provide vocational and technical training for girls and women of all ages and to increase access to education in science and technology, mathematics, engineering, information technology and high technology, as well as management training;

(f) Women's human right to equal access to and control of land, property and credit must be upheld, regardless of customary laws, traditions and practices related to inheritance and marriage. Non-governmental organizations and women's organizations should mobilize to protect the traditional land and property rights of all women, including pastoralists, fishery workers and nomadic groups, indigenous peoples, refugees and migrant workers.]

Strategic objective A.2. Revise laws and administrative practices to recognize women's rights to economic resources and to ensure women's access to economic resources

[Proposal to move section to F.2]

Actions to be taken

48. By Governments:

(a) Ensure access to free or low-cost legal services, including legal literacy, especially designed to reach women living in poverty;

(b) Undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to ownership of land and other property, credit, inheritance, natural resources and appropriate technologies;

new (c) [Enact laws to prevent the passing of rural and indigenous community resources into the hands of the private sector and transnational corporations;]

new (d) [Urge ratification of ILO Convention No. 169 or its effective implementation in countries where it has already been ratified, to ensure the rights of indigenous people;]

new (e) [Urge adoption by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the draft International Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.]

Strategic objective A.3. Provide women with access to savings mechanisms and institutions and to credit

Actions to be taken

49. By Governments:

(a) Enhance the access of disadvantaged women, including women entrepreneurs, in rural, remote and urban areas to financial services through strengthening links between the formal banks and intermediary lending organizations, including legislative support, training for women and institutional strengthening for intermediary institutions with a view to mobilizing capital for those institutions and increasing the availability of credit;

(b) Encourage links between financial institutions and non-governmental organizations and support innovative lending practices, including those that integrate credit with women's services and training and provide credit facilities to rural women.

50. By commercial banks, specialized financial institutions and the private sector in examining their policies with a view to the following:

(a) Use credit and savings methodologies that are effective in reaching women in poverty and innovative in reducing transaction costs and redefining risk;

(b) Open special windows for lending to women, including young women who lack access to traditional sources of collateral;

(c) Simplify banking practices, for example by reducing the minimum deposit and other requirements for opening bank accounts;

(d) Ensure the participation and joint ownership, where possible, of women clients in the decision-making of institutions providing credit and financial services.

51. By multilateral and bilateral development cooperation organizations:

Support, through the provision of capital and/or resources, financial institutions that serve low-income, small and micro-scale women entrepreneurs and producers, in both the formal and informal sectors.

52. By Governments and multilateral financial institutions, as appropriate:

Support institutions that meet performance standards in reaching large numbers of low-income women and men through capitalization, refinancing and institutional development support in forms that foster self-sufficiency.

53. By international organizations:

[Increase] [Provide adequate] funding for programmes and projects designed to promote sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities for income-generation among disadvantaged women and women living in poverty.

Strategic objective A.4. Conduct research in order to enable women to overcome poverty

Actions to be taken

54. By Governments, intergovernmental organizations, academic and research institutions and the private sector:

(a) Develop conceptual and practical methodologies for incorporating gender perspectives into all aspects of economic policy-making, including structural adjustment planning and programmes;

(b) [Seek to] apply these methodologies in conducting gender-implications analyses of all policies and programmes, including structural adjustment programmes, and disseminate the research findings;

55. By national and international statistical organizations:

(a) Collect gender and age-disaggregated data on poverty and all aspects of economic activity, and develop qualitative and quantitative statistical indicators to facilitate the assessment of economic performance from a gender perspective;

(b) Devise suitable statistical means to recognize and make visible the full extent of the work of women and all their contributions to the national economy, including their contribution in the unremunerated and domestic sectors, and examine the relationship of women's unremunerated work to the incidence of and their vulnerability to poverty.

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PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN: ACTION FOR EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE: DRAFT PLATFORM FOR ACTION

Draft Platform for Action

Addendum

Chapter IV

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

A. Persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women

Corrigendum

1. Paragraph 39

The second, third and thirteenth sentences should be placed in square brackets.

2. Paragraph 39, line 26

After opportunities and public services. insert Poverty has various causes, including structural ones.

3. Page 3, line 20

After being deprived of income delete whether from work or from social protection.

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4. Paragraph 45

For the existing text substitute

45. Sustainable development and economic growth that is both sustained and sustainable is only possible through improving the economic, social, political, legal and cultural status of women. Equitable social development that recognizes empowering of the poor, particularly women, to utilize environmental resources sustainably is a necessary foundation for sustainable development.

5. Page 3

After paragraph 45 insert a new paragraph reading

The success of policies and measures aiming at supporting or strengthening the promotion of gender equality and the improvement of the status of women should be based on the integration of the gender perspective in general policies relating to all spheres of society as well as on the implementation of positive measures. [with adequate institutional and financial support at all levels].

6. Page 3

Before Strategic objective A.1, insert a new super-heading reading
ENABLE WOMEN TO OVERCOME POVERTY

7. For subparagraphs 46 (a), (a) bis and (a) ter substitute

(a) Implement sound macroeconomic and sectoral policies, designed and monitored with the full participation of women, that encourage broad-based sustained economic growth in the context of [people-centred] sustainable development [centred on human beings], address the structural causes of poverty and are geared towards eradicating poverty and reducing gender-based inequality.

8. Paragraph 46 (b), line 2

For more equitable read [more equitable]

9. Paragraph 46 (d), line 2

For community-based read [community-based]

10. Paragraph 46 (i) bis

The paragraph should be placed in square brackets.

11. Paragraph 48 (b), line 3

For ownership of land read [ownership of land]

12. Paragraph 54 (b)

Delete [Seek to]

For gender-implications read gender-impact